

(San Antonio, TX) - Following his visit to the Eagle Pass yesterday, Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) called on President Bush help residents immediately by signing a federal emergency disaster declaration. FEMA teams are on the ground surveying damage, but are not expected to finalize their report and make recommendations to the President until next week.

Congressman Rodriguez has released the following statement:

"Based on the massive destruction I've seen firsthand, Eagle Pass needs immediate attention and an immediate response from the President. While FEMA is required to conduct an assessment, the President is not required to wait to declare this a federal emergency. We have an estimated 250 homes damaged or destroyed and hundreds of families displaced. Their lives have been shattered by this tragic storm - they need the President's help now."